



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Radio Report #08. Broadcast over Nome radio stations KNOM, KICY, and KYUK, June 24-26, 2003.

This is Tracy Lingnau with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with a fisheries announcement for Yukon Area salmon fishermen.

The next commercial fishing period in District Y-2 will be from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday June 25 until 12:00 Midnight Wednesday June 25. This will be a 6-hour commercial salmon fishing period with gillnets restricted to 8 inch stretch mesh or larger. To repeat, a commercial salmon fishing period will be allowed in District Y-2 from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday June 25 until 12:00 Midnight Wednesday June 25. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 8 inch stretch mesh or larger. All subsistence gillnets must be out of the water by 12:00 Midnight Tuesday June 24, 18 hours prior to the commercial fishing period. District Y-2 subsistence fishers may begin subsistence fishing 12 Noon Thursday, June 26, 12 hours after the commercial fishing period has ended. It is anticipated that District Y-2 will go back on the Board of Fisheries schedule of 2-36 hour subsistence salmon fishing periods per week on Friday, June 27th.

Subsistence fishing in District Y-1 will close Wednesday June 25 at 6:00 p.m. This closure is in response to the low passage of summer chum salmon to date. The summer chum salmon cumulative test fish catch rate of approximately 785 is about half of last years index through this date. The summer chum salmon passage at Pilot Station sonar of 289,000 is also only half of what it should be at this time. The summer chum salmon run projection is currently about 850,000 fish. This projection will decrease dramatically unless summer chum salmon passage increases in the next couple of days. Based on normal run timing, summer chum salmon usually peak about June 28 at Pilot Station. It is anticipated that District Y-1 will go back on the 2001 Board of Fisheries subsistence salmon fishing schedule of 2-36 hour fishing periods per week on Saturday June 28. The department will continue to monitor the king salmon run to determine if additional commercial fishing is warranted. If additional commercial fishing is warranted we will allow it. Using this strategy should allow us to take advantage of the commercially harvestable surplus of king salmon throughout the river while protecting the summer chum salmon as they move upriver.

District Y-3 subsistence fishing is open until further notice. However, it is anticipated that District Y-3 will go back on the Board of Fisheries schedule of 2-36 hour subsistence salmon fishing periods per week on Tuesday, July 1.

Preliminary results from the second commercial fishing period in District Y-1 are approximately 7,300 chinook and 1,100 summer chum salmon. Harvest to date for Districts Y-1 and Y-2 is approximately 26,000 chinook and 2,800 summer chum salmon.

Fishermen are reminded that they should consult State of Alaska commercial and subsistence fishing regulations before fishing in the Yukon Area.

For recorded fishery announcements and updates call 949-1731, 24 hours a day. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Emmonak 949-1320. The Fish and Game office stands by on VHF channel 7a.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

___KICY 443-2213

___KNOM 443-5221

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